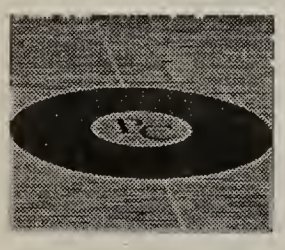
The PC Chronicle

Volume 21 Issue 7 | Since 1981 | Monday, October 7, 2002

Kate Hudson stars in Four Feathers. Read the review. **Entertainment, Page 6**

Joining a student organization can be a good experience. **Opinion, Page 4**



The new Gym floor is complete and the fieldhouse is ready to re-open. **Sports, Page 8**

Upcoming Events

Oct. 9
Centier Bank will be on hand for a presentation from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the SFLC concourse.

Oct. 14
U.S. Steel will give a company overview presentation. It will be held in SFLC 150D from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 15
Partylight will be held in the SFLC concourse from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Oct. 18
A workshop entitled "how to work a job fair" will run from 1 to 3 p.m. in SFLC 327. Employers will be present.

Concert benefits local charities

AMY PILARCZYK
Staff Writer

The third annual "Music for the Masses" will be held on Friday, Oct. 11. Four bands, Othercide, Quarterturn, Faded and Slitzero, will be performing to help Haven House in Hammond and the Rainbow Shelter in Gary.

Othercide, which formed in March of 2000, is a hard rock-band. Othercide consists of singer Jeremy Van Hoose, guitarist Aaron Riehl, bassist Adam Raven and drummer Mike DeLeurere. The band came out with their first album in 2002 called "Starbound," and is beginning to make waves in the music scene around Chicago.

"We decided to share the stage with other great local acts for 'Music for the Masses' so that we could be part of a cause and help raise what is needed to support the Haven House and Rainbow Shelter," Raven said.

Quarterturn is back a second time to play for the concert. The band formed in 2001 and includes singer Patrick Eddy, guitarist John Prestipino, bassist Matthew York and drummer Jim Eder. The band plays a mixture of folk and rock music.

Jeremy Van Hoose, lead singer for Othercide, will share the stage with other local bands to raise money for Haven House and the Rainbow Shelter.

Even though the emphasis of this concert is on the charities, Quarterturn is also doing it to make the band better known.

"We want to play this concert because it is always good exposure. A lot of times we just like to see the talent that is around us. So playing with a group of original bands is a great way to see your peers. Not disregarding the fact that the show is for charity, it just seems an added bonus," Prestipino said.

The Student Programming Board, Student Government Association and The Chronicle are sponsoring "Music for the Masses." The Gamer's Guild will also be helping with set up for the event.

The concert will run from 7 p.m. until 1 a.m. in Alumni Hall. The cost of the concert is $5 if you have a student ID or bring in a donation of 2 items of clothing, food or toys.

See Concert, Page 5

Professors Hopp, Rasmussen named outstanding faculty

NICOLE ELISCHER
Staff Writer

Two professors recently received awards at Fall Convocations for being outstanding faculty members in 2001-2002.

Chris Rasmussen, associate professor of mathematics, received the Outstanding Scholar Award. Lisa Hopp, associate professor of nursing, received the Outstanding Teacher Award.

Rasmussen, who received his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Maryland, has been a faculty member at Purdue since 1997. He teaches math courses in differential equations, geometry and master level courses in math for high school and middle school teachers.

Catherine M. Murphy, department head and graduate advisor of mathematics and computer science, nominated him for the award based on his research that has been "both of personal work and actively involving undergraduate and graduate students."

In 1999 Rasmussen received a five-year National Science Foundation Grant of $400,653 for his research topic, "Differential Equations: Building a Theory of Student Reasoning and Understanding." He said he believes his research has provided opportunities in building theory on how students learn ideas in mathematics and differential equations.

Rasmussen said he was very honored to receive the Outstanding Scholar Award.

"It is a reflection on the strengths of the entire mathematics education faculty and the math department as a whole," Rasmussen said.

Hopp, who received her bachelor's degree from Rush University and master's and doctoral degrees from University of Illinois, has been at PUC for 10 years. She teaches graduate courses in pathophysiology, research and critical care.

In the classroom she uses a variety of teaching strategies and technologies, including interactive television, which is broadcast to West Lafayette and Fort Wayne. She has also done research in the respiratory muscle function of healthy patients as well as patients with bronchitis and emphysema.

Hopp said she was delighted when she received the award and considers her teaching "a work in progress."

Peggy Gerard, the dean of Purdue Calumet's nursing program, nominated Hopp for this award. She believes it shows the amount of time Hopp devotes to the classroom and being involved in teacher excellence.

"Lisa is willing to work with students. She goes beyond the normal responsibilities and helps students succeed," Gerard said.

In the future, Hopp hopes to increase scholarly productivity and local health care activity. As for Rasmussen, he is currently contributing to the improvement of math research and differential equations.

NASA researcher discusses ongoing Mars exploration

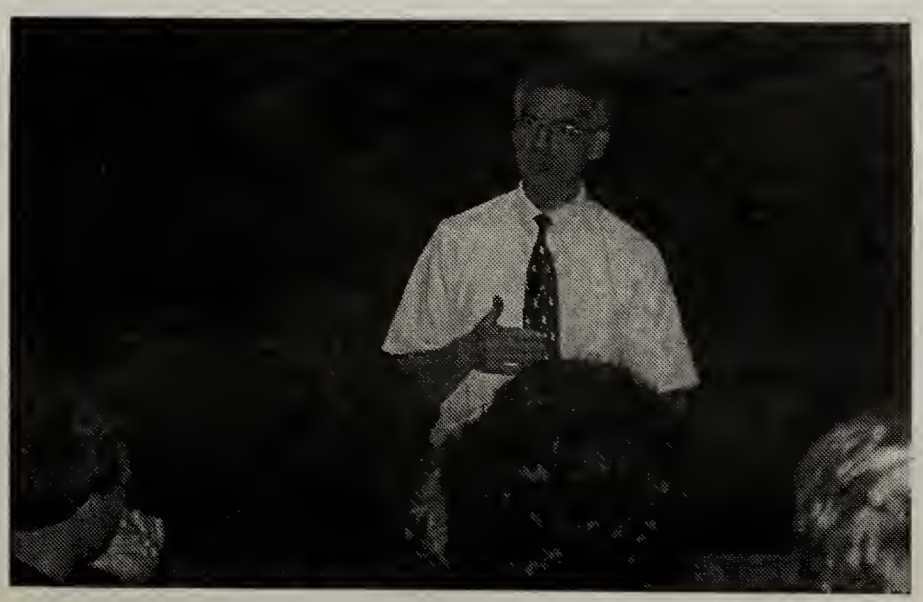
DAVE THOMPSON
Web Designer

Imagine flying through space, being among the first humans to make the journey to Mars. As the spaceship approaches Mars, features of the planet that inspired the writings of Edgar Rice Burroughs Mars series, start to come into view. While this has not occurred yet in human history, this is one of the pictures Donald T. Palac was attempting to paint for the future in outer space when he gave his presentation on the new age of Mars exploration recently.

Engineering professor Ed Pierson was one of the key figures to bring Palac to the PUC campus, along with the Society of Manufacturing Engineers. Palac, a manager of NASA's John H. Glenn Research Center Rocket-Based Combined Cycle Program that attempts to combine rocket and jet engine propulsion to enable routine access to space, is a 1977 graduate of Purdue West Lafayette with a bachelor degree in aeronautical and astronomical engineering. In addition to making previous appearances on the PUC campus dating back to 1997, Palac has spoken at the main Purdue campus in West Lafayette, Ohio State University, Illinois Institute of Technology, Kent State, and Cuyahoga Community College in Ohio, as well as at other organizations. Palac ended up at NASA because of an interest in exploring the solar system, and started out wanting to be an astronaut like former Ohio senator John Glenn and fellow Purdue alumnus Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon in 1969.

"We wanted to bring Palac to campus for this presentation because Mars exploration is something that not just Manufacturing Engineers can enjoy, but also anyone in the general public who is interested in space exploration," Pierson said.

See Mars, Page 5



Photos by Dave Thompson

Donald Palac discusses with the crowd Mars exploration, from the past to the present to the future.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Challenger Learning Center provides valuable learning experience for PUC teacher education students

The Challenger Learning Center of Northwest Indiana, housed at the south end of our campus in The Center, has expanded to include a full color digital planetarium, science lab and facilities to house its second simulator.

One of only two Challenger Learning Centers in the country to house two simulators and a planetarium, the center celebrated its expansion at a dedication program, Sept. 27.

Beside its expansion of brick and mortar, the Challenger Learning Center also has expanded this semester to include a value-added education component for Purdue Calumet teacher education students. Senior education majors enrolled in *Teaching of Science in the Elementary School Curriculum* (EDCI 317) are required to spend 10 hours a semester at the Challenger Learning Center working with students and writing curriculum.

Teacher education students get teaching experience here on campus

"My students are in the field teaching, and this is a great opportunity for them to be enthused, excited and intrigued about incorporating science in the classroom," said Cynthia Etsler, lecturer in the School of Education. "This gives them the opportunity to interact with the children as well as write lesson plans that a classroom teacher can use prior to a mission."

According to Etsler, this new partnership with the Challenger Learning Center is a "great collaboration."

Director of the Challenger Learning Center Lisa Austgen agrees. "This helps Purdue Calumet students learn how to teach science in *the classroom before they graduate. After they graduate and begin* teaching, we're hopeful they'll bring their students back."

According to Austgen, the expansion will allow more than 20,000 school age students to participate in the Challenger experience. Last year, 13,000 students did. Also, almost 1,000 area school teachers have been trained at the Challenger Learning Center.

"It's just hard to imagine where we started three and a half years ago, and where we are now," she said. "We're trying to change how teachers teach and students learn."

Astronaut Jerry Ross gives keynote speech at dedication program

Astronaut, Purdue graduate and Crown Point native Jerry Ross, who was the keynote speaker at the dedication program, talked about inspiring children.

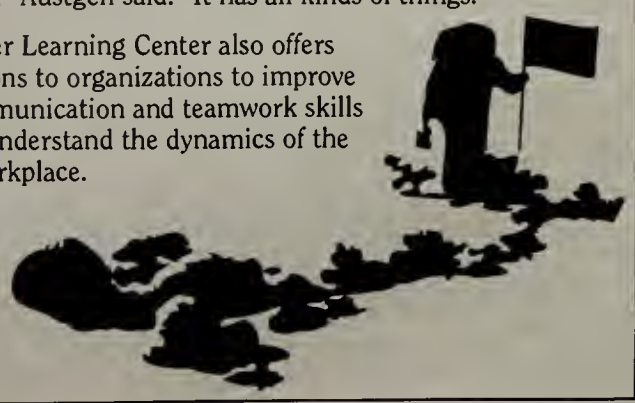
"You never know when a kid is going to catch fire about learning," Ross said. "I was in 4th grade when I decided I wanted to become an engineer, attend Purdue and become involved in our nation's space program."

The Challenger Learning Center, which opened in 1999, creates a space-based, hands-on learning environment for students K-12, focusing on upper elementary and middle schoolers.

It features two simulators, each of which includes a mission control and space station. Its new planetarium projects 6,000 slide images from a fish eye lens onto a 27-foot dome. The planetarium displays four-star shows and illustrates the night sky from up to 30,000 years in the past and 30,000 years into the future.

"It's awesome," Austgen said. "It has all kinds of things."

The Challenger Learning Center also offers corporate missions to organizations to improve employees' communication and teamwork skills and help them understand the dynamics of the 21st Century workplace.



What's goin' on?

A look around campus

Dance Team tryouts

Dance team tryouts will be held on Tuesday Oct. 8 from 4 to 6 p.m. Tryouts will take place in the gym in the PER Building. If interested, please attend and dress ready to dance. Experience is preferred.

For more information, call Lisa at (219) 864-8429 or Kristen at (219) 736-6586.

Student Programming Board seeks members

The SPB is seeking members who are able to attend weekly Friday meetings at 10 a.m., are willing to serve on one internal committee (public relations, student activities, arts and humanities, homecoming, etc.) and who would be willing to bring new ideas to the SPB table.

Those interested should e-mail Christine Marilyn Parry, vice-president of SPB, at vpofprogramming@yahoo.com for more information.

Microsoft Word tutorial offered through Writing Center

The Writing Center will offer "Microsoft 101," a workshop on the basics of Word. The workshop will be held Monday, Oct. 7 and Tuesday, Oct. 8 at 6:30 p.m. in CLO-267. The workshop is free and open to all PUC students.

Visit the Writing Center to sign up before the workshop or call (219) 989-2200.

PUC Photo Club announces meeting and contest

The PUC Photo Club will have their next meeting Monday, Oct. 7 at 5 p.m. in SFLC-301. The photo contest categories will be "Remembering September 11" and "The Best of Summer." Both 35mm and digital prints will be accepted. Everyone is welcome to attend and enter up to five photos in each category.

For more information, please e-mail Kristin at PUCPhotoClub@hotmail.com.

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship holds variety of meetings

A large group meeting, "A Light in Your Work," will be held Oct. 18 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in CLO-339. Small group meetings are held every Thursday from 3:30 to 4:50 p.m. in ANDR-224. Prayer meetings are held every Monday from 12:30 to 1 p.m. and Tuesdays from 10:30 to 11 a.m. in SFLC 344-C. Any and all are welcome!

For more information, call Joyce at (219) 226-9174 or e-mail her at Just4Jesus8888@yahoo.com or e-mail Matt at mgorm44@hotmail.com.

SIFE offers rewards for the deserving

To the world SIFE means Students in Free Enterprise. At PUC, it means service, involvement, fun and experience. Participating in SIFE creates the opportunity for a great job now or in the future-after graduation.

For more information, call Al Czachura, faculty adviser, at (219) 989-2512, visit ANDR-320 or e-mail him at Czachura@calumet.purdue.edu. Help the community and the world community will return the help.

Registration forms are available for International Business Conference

Lake Region International Conference and Exhibition, which includes a seminar about the fundamentals of exporting and 50 international exhibits will be held at The Center, Friday, Nov. 8, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Conference and exhibition is free, but registration is required. Open to the public. To obtain registration form or more information contact Harry Lepinske at (219) 989-2407, (708) 246-5556, or via e-mail: lepins@calumet.purdue.edu.

Say what?

"Good communication is as stimulating as black coffee, and just as hard to sleep after."

-Anne Morrow Lindbergh
1906-2001

The Chronicle

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McNair program prepares students for graduate school

TERRIE HENDERSON
Staff Writer

The primary focus of the McNair Achievement Program is to prepare students for graduate school by helping them obtain the full benefits of any undergraduate program. It is a federally funded program designed to prepare and encourage study in doctoral programs for students who are underrepresented in graduate education. The program was named after Ronald E. McNair, an African American who died in the Challenger accident.

The McNair Achievement program is a support system that allows students to enhance their academic careers through summer research, internships, seminars, counseling, tutoring and graduate school visits. The program also aids students with graduate school admission and financial aid.

To become a McNair Achievement Program participant, students must be enrolled at PUC, and must be a first generation college student or a member of a group that is underrepresented in graduate study. There are 52 McNair programs nationwide. Approximately 120 programs are represented each year at the national conference, which is held at various locations. Each school participates in a national conference and selects up to five participants to present their research at this conference.

Victor Holden, counselor for the McNair Achievement Program, said the program also serves as a graduate school fair, where students can find information about various programs and schools in their specific topic of research.

Lynda Fork, a senior majoring in sociology and a McNair participant, has been a part of the McNair program for four years. After acceptance to the Summer Research Internship Program, she had the opportunity to present her research regarding zero tolerance discipline policies in U.S. schools at a McNair Student Research Convention in Puerto Rico last year.

> "The McNair Achievement Program is there to help you achieve your highest education goals every step of the way."
> Lynda Fork,
> senior majoring in sociology

"Students receive training in the process of academic research, which is essential for success in graduate school," Fork said.

The program also provides students with academic counseling. Students may choose personal mentors from the faculty within their chosen discipline who offer guidance based on their research process and help students with any difficulties they may have. Holden said openings exist for students who are interested in the program, but they fill up quickly. Students who are interested, should set up an appointment with a counselor.

Holden said he strongly encourages anyone interested to fill out an application for the program.

"It can do nothing but benefit you," Holden said.

"The McNair students, staff, and directors are like a family," Fork said. "The McNair Achievement program is there to help you achieve your highest education goals every step of the way."

Increase in tuition makes PUC most expensive college in the area

JENNY CLARK
Staff Writer

Local commuter colleges such as Indiana University Northwest, South Suburban, Ivy Tech and PUC cost less to attend than state or private universities.

Due to recent increases in the cost of tuition, PUC is currently the most expensive university in the area on a per credit hour basis. However, there is only a slight difference between tuition at PUC and at IUN.

IUN is in Gary. At the undergraduate level, IUN costs $115.95 for in-state students per credit hour. For out-of state students, it is $306.70 per credit hour.

IUN graduate work includes education, master of accounting, business and social work. For education and master of accounting courses, IUN costs $148.80 for in-state students and $346.30 for out-of-state students per credit hour. For business and MBA courses, IUN costs $170.60 for in-state students and $400.30 for out-of state students per credit hour. For social work courses, it is $176.90 for in-state students and $420.90 for out-of-state students per credit hour.

There are many fees related to IUN. There are currently 37 different fees for the school, and most of them are field-related studies.

"Tuition is $115.95 per credit hour; multiply that by how many credit hours you're taking, and you will get you your tuition for the year," Marianne Milich, IUN bursar, said.

South Suburban College is located in South Holland, Ill. For students in district, the cost is $55 per credit hour. For students out-of-district, the cost is $220 per credit hour. For out-of-state students, the cost is $240 per credit hour.

At South Suburban there is a required student activity fee. If students are in up to five credit hour classes there is a fee of $3.75 per credit hour. For six or more hours, the fee is $4 per credit hour. There are also seven other fees at South Suburban.

Ivy Tech is also a commuter campus, with three locations in the area. They include Michigan City, Gary and Valparaiso.

For three credit hours (one class), it costs $221.40. For six credit hours (two classes), the cost is $442.80. For nine credit hours, the cost is $664.20. For 15 credit hours, the cost is $1,107.00. For 18 credit hours, the cost is $1,328.40.

For Ivy Tech, students take 30 credit hours per year, and the total tuition totals about $2,214, plus books. Most programs at Ivy Tech are two-year associate degrees and are easily transferred to PUC or IUN.

"Our tuition is the lowest in the state," Joe Arredondo, Associate Director of Admissions of Ivy Tech.

"We are currently $73.80 per credit hour with a $25 technology fee," he said.

At PUC, in-state tuition for undergraduates costs $120.20 per credit hour for continuing students. For new-students, Indiana residents pay $136.20 per credit hour. For undergraduate, non-resident, continuing students, the cost is $301.95 per credit hour. For new out-of-state, undergraduate students, the cost is $317.95 per credit hour.

Wes Lukoshus, director of university relations, said that there is a new fee of $16 per credit hour that is used for student support services, the Riley Child Care Center, skills assessment and the counseling center.

For graduate students who are Indiana residents, the tuition at PUC costs $156.05 per credit hour for students who are continuing their education. For new in-state students, the tuition is $136.20 per credit hour.

For Graduate out-of state students, the tuition rate is $354.35 per credit hour, for continuing students. For new out-of-state graduate students, the tuition is $370.35 per credit hour.

There are three fees that apply to all students. These fees include a $5.50 per credit hour technology fee, a $5.90 per credit hour student service fee, which includes parking, and a $40 per lab hour fee.

NEXTEL on campus days

Wednesday, Oct. 9
and Thursday, Oct. 10
9 a.m.-6 p.m.
SFLC Concourse
outside the cafeteria

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The Chronicle

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Fall 2002
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TV room divided by ethnic groups

Picture this: You walk into a room and find that groups of people are divided up in sections by race. In one corner you see a group of Black students. In another section of the room you spot a group of Hispanic students. In yet another section of the room, you notice a group of white students. Sounds like a vision of what may have been down South somewhere in the 1950s? Well, guess again. You may have just wandered into the television room here at PUC.

Surprised? Shocked? Speechless? You should be. Many people at this school may not even realize it, but for some reason many students seem to organize themselves in little cliques based on race.

Now, don't flip out. Nobody is being accused of being racist or purposely alienating others, but an evident problem is being presented that should be addressed. The majority of the people at this school may have been totally blind to this problem before now. Others may have chosen to ignore it, but it doesn't change the fact that this is actually happening.

Our campus consists of a diverse student body. In classes students interact and communicate with people of different races and backgrounds. Then, why is it that just walking into the television room allows us to see a division of the student body? Why are we not intermingling with everyone else, but sitting in our pre-designated locations?

Why is it that at this very campus comments like "You act white," and "He acts black" are even uttered? These comments are absolutely ludicrous. Who defines what a Black, White, Hispanic, or any other person should act like?

We are all individuals and should not be classified by our race, but by the individual we really are.

We should all be proud of our heritages and our backgrounds. This undoubtedly has had some influence on who we are as individuals. It does not, however, automatically determine who we are or who we will be. We should see people as themselves—a concoction of personality traits and experiences—not as a "black girl" or a "white boy."

What should we do to alleviate the problem at hand? Next time you go into the TV room sit in a part of the room where you usually don't sit. Start a conversation with the person next to you. Flag your friends down and intermingle with other groups of people in the TV room.

If nothing else, at least take a walk into the TV room and get a glimpse of the problem. This may allow you to better understand why a call to action is needed. Maybe you can find other ways to keep our diverse campus from being separated into groups.

The Chronicle Editorial Policy

The views expressed in the commentaries and Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Chronicle* or Purdue University Calumet. *The Chronicle* is not an official publication of Purdue University Calumet.

The Chronicle welcomes reader input. Letters and commentaries must include the author's name, class standing or other affiliation and atelephone number for verification.

All materials submitted to *The Chronicle* become the property of *The Chronicle*. All material must be saved on a 3.5" DOS format disk. *The Chronicle* reserves the right to edit for clarity, accuracy, space and news style. Copy deadline is noon the Monday before publication.

Contact *The Chronicle* at
chroncle@calumet.purdue.edu

Students can make the best of PUC

FRANK SPRANKLE
Managing Editor

By now, PUC students should be familiar with their classes. It has been more than a month since the fall semester started and the routine of campus is a daily part of our lives.

But for many, this campus only serves one purpose, an education, which in the end will result in earning a degree that leads to endless possibilities. While at PUC, a student can take advantage of a number of different organizations around campus.

Being active can mean a great deal for a student. It can provide a positive experience that's worthwhile once they leave PUC.

There are a decent number of organizations from engineers to College Republics to Christian fellowship to name a few. Above all, there is opportunity for everyone on campus.

Deciding on joining a campus organization however, takes commitment. That seems to be a problem when it comes to students, making time for out-of-class activities. First of all, the main purpose when it comes to being in college is to get an education, which should always come first. There are those that take a great load of classes a semester, while others only might take two or three courses.

Then again, there could be those students that have jobs and thus can't manage the time to be in a student organization.

The PUC campus has been described as a non-traditional campus, being that it has students of different ages. In a recent administrative update, the average age of a PUC student is 27-years old. Being that the university serves the community, it gives a chance for anyone to attend classes, even those with families.

Some students at PUC are middle age, returning to college or even entering college, and therefore have a family to care for, while trying to receive college credit.

These are some of the reasons a student might not get involved at PUC. But if one makes time for even one activity, it could bring out the best.

Getting involved means a chance to interact with other PUC students and making a difference on campus. It can also look good on a resume when it comes to finding a job after college. By joining an organization, it can give a student respect, not only from their peers, but also for themselves.

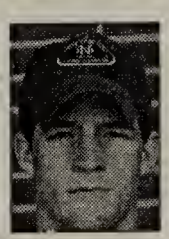
It's never to late to join any student organization and make the most of the PUC.

The People Speak

Question of the Week: Do you have time to join a student organization?

Chris Palacios
Sophomore, Business Accounting
"No, because I work and pay bills."

Erica Breitweiser
Freshman, Undecided
"I have time for it, but I have not looked into it."



Adam Kwolek
Freshman, Engineering
"No because I work and it takes up my time."

Dan Tomaszewski
Freshman, Technology
"Sometimes I work out in the fitness center, but I work two jobs so I don't have the time."

Ashley Reason
Freshman, Elementary Education
"I don't have the time, my mom works two jobs so I spend a lot of time babysitting my sister."

April Komendat
Freshman, Pre Vet
"I think making the time involves checking out the organizations."

Bookstore rivalry?

Suburban Textbooks offers students an alternative for students looking to save some money

EMMALENA COLON
Staff Writer

Photos by Dave Thompson

Customers wait in line to check out of the Calumet Campus Shop in the SFLC building. Until recently it was the only option for many students to buy books.

Suburban Textbooks may offer a less expensive alternative to buying books at the Follet campus bookstore. The books at PUC can range anywhere from $10 to $200. According to the bookstore, it is based on the publisher's price.

Until recently, the Campus Shop was the only place where students could purchase textbooks. About three semesters ago, Jeralyn Bienik, a former Purdue student, and her sister JoEllyn Szymanski, opened up Suburban Textbooks directly across the street from campus on 169th Street.

Jeralyn and her sister decided to open up a bookstore near this campus because they knew that Follet had no competition and for many students the only other options were Barnes & Noble, Amazon.com or local small bookshops.

Although they are relatively new, Suburban Textbooks is able to sell books for lower prices and buy them back at higher prices. The calumet campus shop sells books for the publisher's price, which is higher, and buys them back at less than Suburban.

Several items determine the price of the buyback: the condition of the textbook, whether or not the book will be used in the upcoming semester and by checking the past sales on that textbook. Here at PUC, the eFollet shop claims that they try to buy books back at, at least half of the purchase price based on the quantity requested. This means that once they buy the quantity demanded for that course students with those books can't sell them back for half the price or may not be able to sell them back to eFollet at all.

Gerie Tafel, textbook manager for the Calumet Campus Shop, said that, "The textbook prices are set and to buy back books we buy up to the quantity and the computer will revert the prices down to wholesale for any books bought after the quantity is met."

One of the problems with selling books back to the bookstore is when the book is issued to a student in plastic. The student has to return it to the bookstore still in the plastic. It costs the bookstore money to re-wrap it. Most publishers will not accept the book back, even if you return it within the first week of classes because they can't put it back on the shelf. This is mostly considered with books that have loose CD's with them.

Jeralyn Bienik, owner of Suburban Textbooks, said, "We try to put the books back on the shelves if a student returns them within the first or second week because we know that other students may need that same book."

The sale and buyback policy at PUC has upset many students. Although the books are expensive it is not the bookstore's fault. The department heads pick the books for classes and they know the prices of these books before they order them.

"The prices of the books seem overpriced and most students can barely afford their tuition at times, how they are going to pay for these expensive books can be a big problem," Jaime Salinas, a freshman with an undecided major, said.

Mars

Continued from page 1

Along with high school groups from East Chicago and Valparaiso, visiting assistant professor of physics and astronomy Shawn Slavin brought his Astronomy 263 class to this presentation.

As the crowd settled into their seats, Ed Pierson spoke first, then Tom Daly, chairman of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, then Donald Palac started to speak to the crowd, detailing historical information about the solar system before focusing on Mars.

Palac would comment on how exploration of the solar system has changed from the late 19th century and early 20th century to now, describing how Mars was once a planet thought to have life on it. Then it was debated from the 1970s to 1990s in the space community that Mars was a dead planet. Now the theory is that Mars may currently have liquid water below it's surface, and with that, a possibility exists for primitive bacterial life that was hinted at by a Martian meteorite that landed in Antarctica. While multiple spacecraft have already visited Mars, from Viking to the Mars Pathfinder, more spacecraft are planned to visit Mars in the near future to try to find out more information about the red planet to help prove or disprove theories about life on Mars.

"We may go back to Mars someday and find a rut around the Pathfinder," Palac told the audience about the rover that was sent up along with the Mars Pathfinder mission that was launched in 1996 which helped launch the new age of Mars and outer space exploration.

Describing what NASA saw as it's future, Palac quoted the new NASA administrator Sean O'Keefe. O'Keefe said that NASA's mission was to protect life here on Earth, extend life into outer space, and search for life beyond Earth, in other solar systems. Palac also hoped also that the new generation of space telescopes would allow us to find other solar systems like our own, and eventually, to find new worlds like our planet Earth.

Tom Gaddini, a member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, said, "Palac did a very good job with the presentation. He was very informative and gave a good history of the Mars missions."

Gaddini also said he planned to come to future presentations about space exploration that were being held on campus.

Concert

Continued from page 1

Pizza and pop will also be served to the people who attend.

Jade Lee Culberson, secretary of the SPB, explained why this concert is a great way for students to get involved in the community and to get together as a whole.

"It is good for students to put forth the effort to give to charities, and by having it be a concert event it becomes fun for them too," Culberson said. "There are so many bands on campus, so many students with musical talent; it is a way for them to express publicity and a great way for college students on a commuter campus to do something in a large group."

Last year over $1000 was raised for the Power of America Fund. Due its success, this concert could become a yearly event. Vice president of SPB, Christine Parry, said that if there is support from the students this event will go on every year.

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"Four Feathers" is authentic, uninteresting

TERRENCE ISBELL
Staff Writer

I know as a patented film buff, I could get drummed out of the society for saying this, but huge, historical epic pictures aren't really my things. I know, I know...period costumes, extreme drama, huge battles...I should be engaged with each and every second the screen is filled with one of these articles. I've sat through enough "Titanics" and "Pearl Harbors" to reach this point, so I think I have a right to say it. In the vein of these fine films, we now have "The Three Feathers," a movie that is just about as "epic-y" as it can get.

These movies must have leads that are the young, Seventeen magazine looking types, and "Feathers" isn't about to break tradition. Not only do you get Heath Ledger ("A Knights Tale"); you also get to revel in Wes Bentley ("American Beauty") and Kate Hudson ("Almost Famous") as well.

Ledger plays Harry Feversham, an up and coming British soldier with the wonderful opportunity to join his fellow troops in invading and colonizing the Sudan. Suffice it to say, Harry, being the upstanding guy he is, isn't too thrilled with her majesty's decisions to invade and colonize other parts of the world without their consent.

Once one of the infantries goes this route, Sudanese rebels decide to attack them to prove that you can't just go around colonizing wherever you please. Harry's group has orders to find their kidnapped comrades, but with his upcoming marriage to the lovely Ethne (Hudson), and his graduation just around the corner, he chooses to resign from his position to keep them intact.

When word gets back to his family and friends of his decision, Harry is sent a letter containing...get ready for it...four feathers. Their significance is greater than you think; for they represent the sender's opinion of you, which is basically "you're a coward."

Based on the novel by A.E.W. Mason, but I doubt he intended for his story to be translated in such a bland way. True, everything looks and acts authentic and 1800s-like, from the accents to the huge battle scenes, but the characters themselves are what is suppose to make the movie, and they didn't really do it for me.

Heath Ledger plays Harry Feversham, a British soldier about to colonize and invade the Sudan, in the 1800s set "Four Feathers."

Harry's motivation is intriguing enough, but often times he seemed to be a little too calm. You're stuck in the middle of the Sudan desert, with nothing but a single gun, and everybody is out there for your blood...can we be a tad more concerned, please? Hudson and Bentley are more or less in the background back home, discussing Harry and why he is who he is.

Hudson is an excellent actress, as "Almost Famous" has proven, but here she has no character development whatsoever. She's just there to talk about how she loves Harry, and we rarely get to see what other thoughts might be floating around in her head.

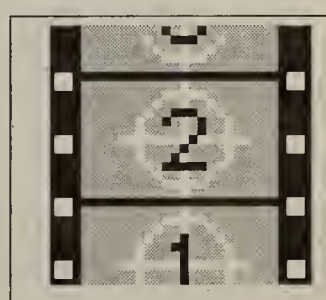
Wes Bentley, ("American Beauty"), plays the part of the best friend in "Four Feathers."

Kate Hudson plays Heath Ledger's love interest, Ethne, in "The Four Feathers."

Wes Bentley's character is pretty much the good natured best friend, and he also suffers from the lack of depth...why he didn't take a cue from his stint in "American Beauty" is beyond me.

By law, there has to be one huge historical flick each year, and if "The Four Feathers" is the one, I hope they have room to add on one more. It's not a bad movie, but an extra kick here and there couldn't hurt.

"Four Feathers"
Heath Ledger, Wes Bentley, Kate Hudson
★★★



Movie Review

'Love Letters' hits emotional high

TERRENCE ISBELL
Staff Writer

Theatrical productions are a very versatile form of art. They can include a cast of dozens or more, or even consist of a cast of one...and never lose their creative integrity in the process. Sometimes playwrights decide to split the difference and go for maybe two lone cast members, simply to allow the audience to see how fleshed out and realistic these characters are. Famed playwright A.R. Gurney did this in his show titled "Love Letters," and the performance that was provided here at PUC back on Saturday, Sept. 28 demonstrates Gurney's intentions and talents for writing to a tee.

Anyone expecting a bizarre love triangle-type soap opera with more supporting characters than you can shake a stick at would be a tad off the mark, as the production only consists of two individuals taking the stage for the entire length of the program. The basic story consists of the trials and tribulations of high society-bred Andrew Makepeace Ladd III (Paul Hernandez) and his childhood friend Melissa Gardner (Megan A. Dagley). Practically joined at the hip since their youth, they soon discover that as they grow older, they also are growing apart, both physically and metaphorically, and decide to maintain their relationship through handwritten letters. Andrew, with his upper class upbringing, enjoys the creative process involved in letter writing, whereas Melissa prefers to simply use a telephone or spend time with Andrew in person. It becomes apparent that her skill of letter writing in the beginning doesn't match Andrew's, but after a while becomes her only option in communicating with her love.

To the naked eye, it would appear that a couple hours of hearing two people in a long distance relationship reading letters from one another would become a tad tedious, but the emotion put into each character's reading is what makes it just as engaging as a multi-cast ensemble. This correspondence lasts for more than 5 decades, from their innocent youth, to adolescence, on through to middle age. Anyone that's been in a relationship knows the ups and downs, the good and bad, and the highs and lows. Seeing it all take place in letter form does show how much of a difference it makes when the person you're angry with or want to have fun with isn't right there in your face. When Melissa and Andrew's relationship starts to waver and fall apart, you see it happening right before your eyes, simply by the written words.

Directed by Communication and Creative Arts instructor Tom Bogucki, this rendition of "Love Letters" maintained a very interesting sense of humor, dread, suffering, and rebirth throughout its entirety. Paul Hernandez and Megan A. Dagley's performances were often spot-on, never allowing the audience to doubt for a second that they were childhood friends growing up on opposite ends of the spectrum, though still as close as ever. When a play gets to that point of realism, it's obviously rooted in the talents of its cast and creators.

Not so high about 'Twelve'

NICOLE ELISCHER
Staff Writer

"Less Than Zero." "Cruel Intentions." The Rules of Attractions." If possible, I could think of 12 other books or movies that have the same thing in common with "Twelve," Nick McDonell's unexciting debut novel of spoiled rich teenagers who believe that the happiness and meaning that they seek is in all the sex, drugs, and violence they can have. What they really end up finding is their own unexpected death.

Written during his senior year of high school, McDonell 's novel follows a week in the life of White Mike, a high school dropout turned drug dealer that does not smoke, drink, or use drugs. Yet, he caters the best drugs to the rich teens of Manhattan that plan the biggest New Year's Eve party. One of these drugs that is a must-have for this party is "twelve", a new drug that is so powerful that one of the kids, Jessica, compares it to the thrill of reading the Gettysburg Address for the first time.

Author Nick McDonell wrote his first novel, "Twelve," at 17-years-old while on winter break from high school.

Give me a break. I read this novel one and half times and still do not see why the critics think McDonell is a wonder kid. In an attempt to sound mature than his 18-years, his novel comes off sounding like a very bad after school special. Most of the chapters never develop a plot or characters worth caring for. What these chapters do instead is show that these teenagers are a bunch of old stereotypes that seem very outdated in today's world. Even sober drug dealer White Mike is not believable. (Correction: There are two characters, Mark Rothko and Timmy that I found mildly amusing. Perhaps because the "white trying to be black" culture is ridiculous, I was laughing my head off at these two's crazy antics of looking for munchies and their rapper slang that consist of "Word" and other stuff that is unprintable.)

In these chapters, are numerous failed attempts to move the dormant plot by "shocking" the reader with vivid details of drug use, sex, and violence. One of these scenes happens at the end of the novel, as the teens' New Year's Eve party turns in a bloody massacre courtesy of Claude, a kid that should have stayed in rehab when he becomes obsessed with guns. The worse part of this scene is not how many of the boring characters got killed, but that one character survives for one last chapter that attempts to give a hopeful ending. This last chapter doesn't work since the book is very bleak. I think if this kid was not the son of the managing editor of "Sports Illustrated" and the godson of the publisher of Grove-Atlantic, "Twelve" might have ended up in the Young Adult section with a large parental warning.

For those that want a novel worth caring about, skip "Twelve." For those that want to read this out of curiosity, wait till the paperback version. To anybody that believes this novel has any value or "speaks" to our generation, please seek help. The glass is not half-empty, but floods with so much more than one thinks.

Book Review

Nick McDonell
"Twelve"
★

Turkey Run an affordable and beautiful retreat

TERRIE HENDERSON
Staff Writer

Just because autumn has arrived and jackets and sweaters will soon become more prevalent in our everyday attire, it doesn't mean that you should hibemate for the winter just yet. Even if you are low on money, there is an inexpensive vacation spot just far enough to get away from the new stress of the school year, but not far enough away to separate you entirely from your obligations as a student.

Money is a big factor for many students when deciding on if they can afford a small get away mid semester, no matter how badly they need one. Turkey Run has a park entrance fee of four dollars for cars with Indiana license plates, and five dollars for cars from other states. A trip to Turkey Run will probably include a full tank of gas, four or five dollars for admittance, and a picnic lunch.

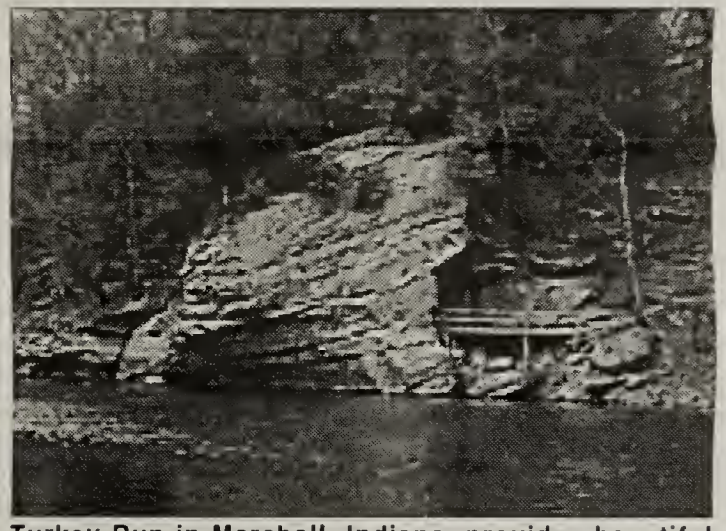
Autumn is the perfect time to hike because the heat is not as intense and the trees will be full of color with the changing colors of the season. People with an interest in photography or a love of nature will marvel at the hidden beauty the trails of Turkey Run hold. The wildlife is rich and flourishing and backpacking the trails can be exciting and intriguing. Don't be surprised if you see a deer run across your path.

The park is filled with natural geologic wonders. After you cross the gigantic suspension bridge you can choose from eleven different trails ranging from easy to very strenuous. Make sure you do not miss out on the Punch Bowl. Glaciers that covered much of Indiana formed the Punch Bowl long ago. Walk into one of the ravines and witness the sandstone gorges formed over a period of 300 to 600 million years.

Turkey Run has many historic sites to visit as well as natural beauty. The Lusk Home, an early pioneer home and gristmill is open for tours daily. The Nature Center and Planetarium are must-sees.

The Park truly is an outdoor paradise year round, but is especially beautiful when the leaves are turning vibrant colors in the fall. Whether you are looking for a relaxing, stress free get away, an adventurous excursion of exploration and wonder, or just an outing that falls somewhere in the middle, Turkey Run is an ideal destination for fun, adventure and enjoyment.

If you still feel the desire to get out and take a trip before the snow starts to fall but you don't want to travel too far because you are back to your busy school schedule, consider a day-long outing to Turkey Run State Park, located in Marshall Indiana. Turkey Run State Park is approximately two and half-hours south of Hammond on Route 41.



Turkey Run in Marshall, Indiana, provides beautiful scenery with its hiking trails, large rocks, and rivers.

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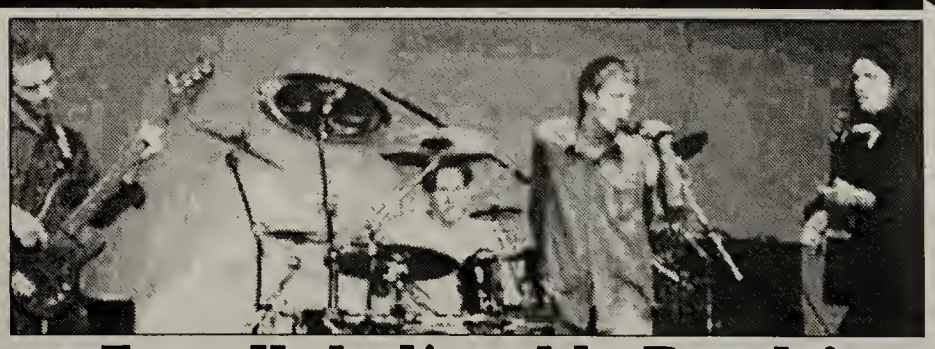


Four Unbelievable Bands!

The concert will benefit The Haven House and Rainbow Shelter, local women's shelters.

For more information, please contact Jade Lee or Christine at (219) 989-2394.

The cost is $5 with a student ID or 2 food or clothing donations, $7 without. Pizza and pop will be provided! All proceeds will be donated to the Haven House and Rainbow Shelter.

The Sprankle Confines

A tale of two teams

FRANK SPRANKLE
Managing Editor

It's about two sides of town, north and south, but once again its the same old song, a down year as far as baseball in Chicago goes. The Cubs finished off the season in fifth place in the N.L. Central at 67-95, while the White Sox ended-up in second place, but at 81-81.

As the major league post season moves on towards the World Series, both teams look ahead to 2003.

However, coming into spring training of this past year, it seem that the outlook was positive for both the Cubs and White Sox.

With the Cubs signing Moises Alou to play leftfield, anyone would think they would be one of the best outfields in all of the major leagues, with Sammy Sosa of course. Alou started the season injured, but come season's end, hit .275.

On the other hand, Sammy did have another productive year, hitting 49 homeruns, driving in 108 runs, while hitting .288. To end the year, he has 499 career homeruns, and therefore all eyes will be watching Sammy, as he approaches the milestone.

One positive that the Cubs have, relies in their pitching staff, with the likes of Matt Clement, Kerry Wood, and Mark Prior, but help is needed in their bullpen, particularly in middle relieve.

Despite coming into a tough situation, Bruce Kimm, did all he could in keeping a team together as interim manager, but finishing with a 32-45 record would keep Kimm's title. He took over for Don Baylor in early July, as the Cubs were 34-49. Now, the search for a new manager begins in Wrigleyville.

In the A. L. Central, the Minnesota Twins were the team to beat. Many thought that the Sox could possibly catch-up to the Twins, but the second half of the season did not provide much excitement on the South Side.

Once again, Magglio Ordonez continued to swing a hot bat, belting a team high 38 homeruns as well as leading the White Sox in batting average at .320 and RBIs with 135.

One question remains: will Frank Thomas be back? He could become a free agent. Thomas says he will stay and continue his career with the Sox.

Fieldhouse to re-open on Thursday

FRANK SPRANKLE
Managing Editor

It's a project that has gone on for three months, but in that time, it has brought anticipation. Over the course of that time, the gym in the PER Building has undergone its biggest renovation ever, with construction of a maple floor and two new scoreboards on the north and south ends of the facility. However, the work is done, and so this Thursday (Oct. 10), the fieldhouse will open-up to PUC with a sharp look.

The new floor, which has become the biggest attraction in the renovation project, features a colligate look. For many years, the Laker and Lady Laker basketball teams played their home games on a surface that consisted of rubber and plastic. Now, it's pure maple that the PUC basketball teams will be playing on, with the colors of black and gold painted on.

> "The new collegiate painting of the floor is the main key, it makes it more state-of-the-art. Everyone will notice the difference."
> Rob Jensen, director of fitness, wellness and sports

"The new colligate painting of the floor is the main key, it makes it more state-of-the-art. Everyone will notice the difference," Director of Fitness, Wellness, and Sports Rob Jensen said.

Since the project began, Jensen has overseen everything from the installation to the paint job.

The installers of the new floor, Kiefer Specialty Flooring Inc., worked an average of up to 10 hours a day, five days a week. The Zion based company even placed the same type of floor at the Macky Arena in West Lafayette.

"They (Kiefer) were excellent, they checked in with us and they made sure the floor was going to get done," Jensen said.

Completion for the floor was on time, finished by the scheduled date of Sept. 30.

"The progress was very good, the contractors did a good job getting it done right on schedule," Jensen said.

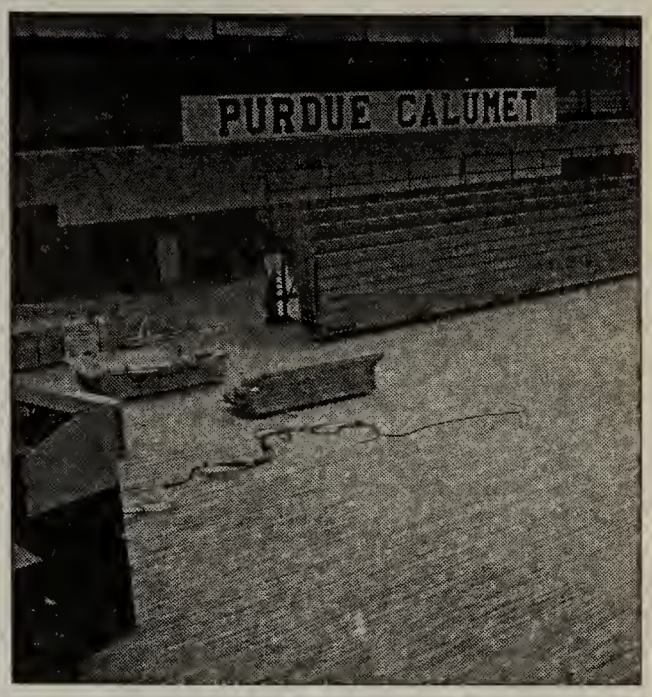
Now that the renovation of the fieldhouse is finish, it's all a matter of ringing it in, which will take place this Thursday in ceremony.

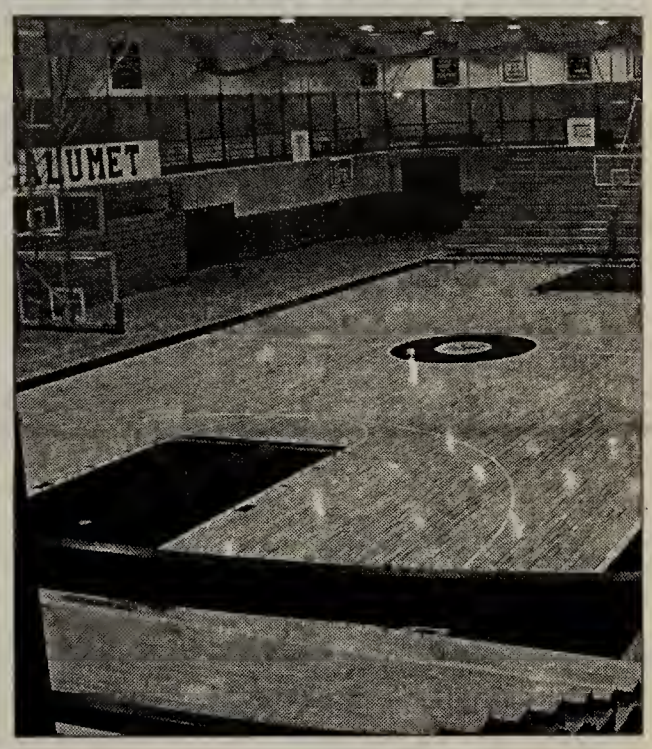
The ceremony will take place at noon and feature short speeches by Jensen and Chancellor Howard Cohen. Also, a ribbon cutting will officially break-in the new look fieldhouse.

Anyone is welcome to attend the ceremony, for representatives from both basketball teams, ESU, dance team and SGA will be present.

From there, the gym will be open and available for basketball practice, ESU's intramurals, and for anyone who just wants to shoot a few free-throws.

"I have seen the floor and it looks great. It's an improvement and it will be a great opportunity for our basketball teams and people from the community as well," Cohen said.





Photos byDave Thompson

Top right: This was the gym floor in the PER building as of August. Notice the construction efforts.
Bottom right: As of Sept. 30, the floor was completed and will open Oct. 10 during a ribbon cutting ceremony.

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November Basketball Schedule

MEN

11/6-	vs. Purdue North Central @ Hammond Civic Center	6 p.m.
11/8-	vs. Michigan-Dearborn @ Indiana Southeast	6 p.m. EST
11/15-	@ IUN	7 p.m.
11/16-	vs. Calumet College of St. Joseph	7 p.m.
11/18-	@ Trinity Christian College	7:30 p.m.
11/22-	@ Wabash College	9 p.m. EST
11/26-	vs. Bethel College	7:15

vs.=HOME @=AWAY

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